

Quilts for Kids delivers cuddly gifts to patients on Halloween

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SCOTT ROGERS/The Times

Northeast Georgia Medical Center patient Tess Killingsworth, 10, is visited by Betty Wright, left, and Abit Massey as they offer her a quilt. The Northeast Georgia Chapter of Quilts for Kids delivers quilts to children at the hospital every two weeks and on holidays.

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It was all treats for children on the pediatric floor of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Representatives from the Northeast Georgia Chapter of Quilts for Kids went from room to room Thursday, handing out handmade quilts to seven children.

Chapter leader Betty Wright, along with volunteers Abit Massey and Ginny Stump, dressed in Halloween costumes and spent some time chatting with the children and their parents. The tiny patients then got to pick which quilt they liked best.

“(I picked it) because it’s pretty,” said Mariana Vargas, 6. She chose a bright, neon-colored quilt.

Kimberly Woodfin was in the hospital with her 1-year-old son, Bentley Winkler.

“I was kind of shocked,” Woodfin said. “I didn’t know they were doing anything for Halloween. It’s nice when your child’s sick and you have somebody here who cares and wants to give them things.”

Chartered in March 2012, this chapter of Quilts for Kids has distributed 452 quilts to children at the hospital, Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter and Family Promise of Hall County.

Wright has delivered 204 quilts to the hospital just this year. She visits every other Friday and on holidays.

“It’s nice,” said parent Rosa Oropeza, who was there with her 5-day-old son, Jair. “It’s nice to have people that care about other people.”

While the children were in the hospital for reasons ranging from asthma to appendicitis, all lit up when they got to choose which quilt they wanted.

For volunteer Stump, it was her first time coming along for a delivery.

“I just asked if I could come back,” she said with a laugh. “It was so much fun, just seeing the children and their reactions to everything. Obviously it means a lot to them to have visitors or to have somebody thinking about them.”

The deliveries brighten things up just a little in the pediatric wing.

“They love them,” said nurse Sharon Hensley about the children’s reactions. “They just can’t believe somebody would do that for them.

“It makes a bad experience a little more special.”